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SAINT IVES (HUNTS)
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT
OF
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
AND
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR 1964

**LIST OF PARISHES
IN THE
COUNCIL'S AREA**

Bluntisham

Broughton

Bury

Colne

Earith

Fenstanton

Hemingford Abbots

Hemingford Grey

Hilton

Holywell-cum-Needingworth

Houghton and Wyton

Oldhurst

Pidley-cum-Fenton

Somersham

Warboys

Wistow

Woodhurst

Saint Ives Rural District Council

Chairman of the Council:

D. B. WRIGHT, ESQ., J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

H. E. PARREN, ESQ.

Members of the Council:

Cmdr. C. F. Alington	R. W. Giddins, Esq.
H. G. W. Anderson, Esq.	J. W. Harris, Esq.
Mrs. M. Banks	C. D. Hutchcraft, Esq.
Mrs. A. R. Buck	G. Kiddle, Esq., M.B.E.
D. H. Burch, Esq.	M. F. Newman, Esq.
M. P. Denny, Esq.	Mrs. W. M. Price, C.C.
G. A. Earl, Esq., C.A.	R. G. Saint, Esq.
Revd. A. J. R. Eyre	Miss V. M. G. Thackray
S. E. K. Falconer, Esq.	Revd. N. Trafford, A.L.C.D.
	R. A. Wright, Esq., O.B.E.

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Chairman:

R. A. WRIGHT, ESQ., O.B.E.

Vice-Chairman:

R. W. GIDDINS, ESQ.

Members:

Cmdr. C. F. Alington	C. D. Hutchcraft, Esq.
Mrs. M. Banks	G. Kiddle, Esq., M.B.E.
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M. P. Denny, Esq.	R. G. Saint, Esq.
G. A. Earl, Esq., C.A.	Miss V. M. G. Thackray
Revd. A. J. R. Eyre	Revd. N. Trafford, A.L.C.D.
J. W. Harris, Esq.	D. B. Wright, Esq., J.P.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Medical Officer of Health:

J. Caldwell, L.R.C.P., L.R.C.S., L.R.F.P. & S., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

G. H. Phipps, C.S.I.B., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

K. Broom, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

P. A. Haggerity, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H.

Administrative Assistant:

F. W. Palmer

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR
THE RURAL DISTRICT OF
SAINT IVES IN THE COUNTY OF HUNTINGDON
FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31st DECEMBER, 1964.

To:—

The Chairman and Members of the
Saint Ives Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my report on the health and sanitary conditions of the District for the year 1964.

Vital Statistics.

Population. Between 1963 and 1964 there was a movement of Armed Forces personnel estimated at a net loss of some 792 persons and during the same period there was a net increase of 662 civilians in the district. The "home" population (which is made up of the combined service and civilian populations) therefore shows this year a decrease of 130 and explains the apparent reduction in the population figure for 1964 as compared with 1963.

Area Comparability Factors for use with crude birth and death rates contain adjustments for boundary changes and make allowances for the way in which the sex and age distribution of the local population differs from that for England and Wales as a whole. In addition, the death rate comparability factor has been adjusted specifically to take account of the presence of any residential institutions in the area. When local crude birth and death rates are multiplied by the appropriate area comparability factor, they are comparable with the crude rate for England and Wales or with the corresponding adjusted rate for any other area.

The Birth Rate. The crude birth rate rose from 18.3 in 1963 to 18.7 during this year and now stands higher than it has ever done during the present decade.

The Death Rate. The crude death rate indicates an upward trend in 1964 and an examination of the facts reveals that nearly half the deaths occurred in persons of 75 years or over and over 70% in persons over 65 years.

53% of deaths were due to disease of the cardio-vascular system and 18% were due to cancer.

Infant Mortality shows a slight increase over last year's figure and now stands a little in advance of the national

figure but the actual number of infants involved is statistically very small indeed.

Infectious Disease. 1964 was a year in which infectious disease ran at a very low level and in which no outbreaks of any consequence occurred. Measles and whooping cough, both of which are endemic in this country, accounted for over 90% of the notifications. Neither of these conditions brought serious complications in their train and no deaths were attributable to either disease.

Social Conditions.

This is an authority with a team of officers who can plan and carry out combined operations village by village as their sanitary systems are brought up to modern standards. The Council is pressing forward with the remainder of the main drainage schemes in the district and is co-ordinating the housing development in the area to take advantage of these improved facilities. The general environmental conditions will thus steadily improve to the advantage of the residents of the district.

Improvements to the older Council properties are proceeding and private owners continue to take advantage of the grants available to modernise older dwellings. Practically all the houses included in the Council's Slum Clearance Scheme have been dealt with but some further houses will be represented as unfit where it is considered that there is no alternative to closure or demolition. The demand for housing in the area has continued and the Council is fully aware of the fact that accommodation is still required. The special requirements for the older members of the community have not been forgotten and a number of old people's dwellings will be included in future schemes.

There are several caravan sites in the district all of which are licensed by the council and provide the standard services.

Works to improve the supply of water to those parts of the district which are the responsibility of the Cambridge Water Company and the Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board are proceeding. One additional source of supply from the river gravel at Hemingford Grey has been approved by the Ministry and will shortly come into operation.

In conclusion I should like to express my thanks to Mr. Phipps and all other members of the department's staff for the assistance they have given me, and for all the work they have done during the year despite the relatively small establishment to carry out the duties entailed.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

JAMES CALDWELL.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS FOR THE AREA

General Statistics.

Population (mid. 1962)	16,510
Population (mid. 1963)	16,380
Area (acres)	44,992
Rateable value	£471,539
Sum represented by a penny rate ...	£1,922
Number of inhabited houses ...	4,819

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1964

Estimated mid year home population ... 16,380

Live Births

	Male	Female	Total
Legitimate	144	147	291
Illegitimate	7	9	16
Totals	151	156	307

Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population ...	18.7
Birth Rate corrected by comparability factor (0.96)	18.0
Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales)	18.4

Still Births

	—	2	2
Legitimate	—	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	Nil	2	2

Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births ...	6.5
Still birth rate per 1,000 total live and still births (England and Wales)	16.3

Deaths

79	74	153
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population ...	9.3	
Death rate corrected by comparability factor (1.20)	11.2	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population (England and Wales)	11.3	

Infant Mortality — Deaths of infants under 1 year of age.

4	3	7
Legitimate	—	—
Illegitimate	—	—
Totals	4	3

Infant mortality rate (Deaths of infants under 1 year per 1,000 live births)	22.8
Infant mortality rate (England and Wales) ...	20.0

Table classifying deaths under age groups.

Ages	Male	Female	Total
Under 4 weeks	2	3	5
4 weeks and under 1 year	2	—	2
1 and under 5 years	—	—	—
5 and under 15 years	1	—	1
15 and under 25 years	—	1	1
25 and under 35 years	1	1	2
35 and under 45 years	2	—	2
45 and under 55 years	7	3	10
55 and under 65 years	15	7	22
65 and under 75 years	19	16	35
75 years and over	30	43	73
 Totals	 79	 74	 153
—	—	—	—

CAUSES OF DEATHS
(Registrar General's List)

List No.	Cause	Male	Female
9.	Other infective and parasitic diseases	—	1
10.	Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	5
11.	Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	9	1
12.	Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	1
13.	Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	1
14.	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	8	2
16.	Diabetes	2	1
17.	Vascular lesions of nervous system	11	13
18.	Coronary disease, angina	17	15
19.	Hypertension with heart disease	1	2
20.	Other heart disease	4	9
21.	Other circulatory disease	3	7
23.	Pneumonia	1	2
24.	Bronchitis	8	—
25.	Other disease of respiratory system	—	1
26.	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	—
27.	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1
28.	Nephritis and nephrosis	—	1
29.	Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
31.	Congenital malformations	3	1
32.	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	4	6
33.	Motor vehicle accidents	—	1
34.	All other accidents	2	3
35.	Suicide	1	—
 Total all causes	 79	 74	
—	—	—	—

The following table indicates the trend in population, birth and death rates for the district over the past 5 years:—

	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964
Population	15,340	16,370	15,570	16,510	16,380
Births					
Total live births	275	280	290	302	307
Crude birth rate	17.90	17.10	18.60	18.30	18.70
Area comparability					
factor	1.11	1.07	1.01	0.96	0.96
Corrected birth rate	19.90	18.30	19.90	17.60	18.00
Birth rate (England and Wales)	17.10	17.40	18.00	18.20	18.40
Deaths					
Total deaths	120	125	123	137	153
Crude death rate	7.80	7.60	7.90	8.30	9.30
Area comparability					
factor	1.12	1.16	1.19	1.20	1.20
Corrected death rate	8.80	8.80	9.40	9.90	11.20
Death rate (England and Wales)	11.50	12.00	11.90	12.20	11.30

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE DURING 1964

			Total cases notified
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1
Whooping cough	...	...	40
Diphtheria	...	...	—
Measles	...	...	72
Acute Pneumonia	...	...	3
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—
Typhoid fever	...	...	—
Paratyphoid fever	...	...	—
Erysipelas	...	...	—
Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—
Infective Hepatitis	...	...	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	1
Dysentery	...	...	6
			—
		Total	123

The District shared in the diminished incidence of measles which affected the whole country this year and only 72 cases were notified.

The more serious forms of notifiable infectious disease such as diphtheria and poliomyelitis continue to be conspicuous by their absence and this is due to a very great extent to constant immunisation measures, being undertaken by the family doctors and Local Authority practitioners within

the district. The only notified case of food poisoning occurred in a member of the U.S.A.A.F. at Alconbury where there was an outbreak in September.

Six cases of dysentery were reported during the latter half of the year — 5 of them being in one family and the other a resident at R.A.F. Wyton. The condition was short lived and all six made a good recovery.

TUBERCULOSIS

AGE PERIODS	New Cases—Diagnosed				New Cases—Transfers			
	Respiratory		Non-Res.		Respiratory		Non-Res.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0
I
5
10
15
20	I	..	..	..	..
25
35
45
55
65 and upwards	..	I	..	..	..	..	I	..
Totals	..	2	0	0	0	0	I	0

No action was found to be necessary under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1952, in connection with persons suffering from pulmonary tuberculosis employed in the milk trade, or under Section 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, which deals with the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from tuberculosis.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(a) Laboratory Facilities

The following Laboratory facilities have been available to this Authority and to General Practitioners in the area:—

Public Health Laboratory Service, Tennis Court Road,
Cambridge. (Tel.: Cambridge 55526).

Public Analyst, (S. Greenburgh, Ph.D., B.Sc., F.I.C.),
Tennison Road, Cambridge.
(Tel.: Cambridge 2097).

(b) Ambulance Services

Ambulances administered by the County Ambulance Service operating in conjunction with the County Fire Service have been available on doctor's orders. (Tel.: Huntingdon 348).

(c) Home Nursing

Nurse/Midwives employed and supervised by the Huntingdon County Council carried out Home nursing and attended maternity cases.

- (i) A nurse residing in Warboys (Tel.: Warboys 224) attended cases in Broughton, Warboys and Wistow.
- (ii) A nurse residing in Bluntisham (Tel.: Earith 225) attended cases in Bluntisham, Earith, Pidley and Somersham.
- (iii) A nurse residing in Hemingford Grey (Tel.: St. Ives 2128) attended cases in the Hemingfords, Fenstanton and Hilton.
- (iv) A nurse residing in Woodhurst (Tel.: Warboys 327) attended cases in Wyton Aerodrome, Woodhurst, Oldhurst and Upwood.
- (v) A nurse residing in Fenstanton (Tel.: St. Ives 3623) attended cases in Houghton and Wyton villages.

(d) Clinic and Treatment Centres

- (i) The following Health Services were provided by the Huntingdon County Council:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Minor Ailments	Schoolchildren	3rd Friday in month. 10.30-11.30 a.m.	Health Clinic. Station Approach, St. Ives.
Infant Welfare	Children (0-5 yrs.)	Every Friday. 2-4 p.m. 1st Monday in month. 2-4 p.m. 2nd Tuesday in month. 2-4 p.m. 1st Wednesday in month. 2-4 p.m.	Ditto. Constitutional Hall, Fenstanton. Methodist Schoolroom, Somersham. Women's Institute Hall, Warboys.
Dental	Pre-school and schoolchildren, Pre-natal and nursing mothers.	Every Monday 9 a.m.-12 noon. 1.30-4.30 p.m. Every Tuesday 9 a.m.-12 noon 1.30 - 4.30 p.m. Every Saturday 9 a.m.-12 noon	Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives. Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

(ii) The following Health Services were provided by the Regional Hospital Board:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Chest	All ages	Every Thursday. 10 a.m.-12 noon.	County Hospital, Huntingdon.
Venereal Diseases	All cases	Tuesdays, 3-6.30 p.m. Thursdays, 4-6.30 p.m.	Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.
	Males	Mondays, 4.30-6.30 p.m. Tuesdays, 5.30-7 p.m.	Out-Patients Department, Memorial Hospital, Peterborough.
	Females and Children	Tuesdays, 10.30-12 noon Thursdays, 4.30-6.30 p.m.	
Orthopaedic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	Every Tuesday 10-12 noon (Surgeons by appointment) 1st, 2nd and 4th Fridays in month (Sister) 10 a.m.-12 noon.	Health Clinic, Nursery Road Huntingdon Health Clinic, Station Approach, St. Ives

(iii) The following service is provided under the Supplementary Ophthalmic Scheme of the National Health Service:—

Clinic	Patients seen	When held	Where held
Ophthalmic	Pre-school and schoolchildren	1st and 3rd Fridays in month (by appointment except in emergency). 10 a.m.-12 noon. 2-3 p.m.	Health Clinic, Nursery Road, Huntingdon

Medical, Surgical, Orthopaedic, Paediatric, Skin, Obstetrical, Gynaecological and Dental out-patients clinics are held at Huntingdon County Hospital and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, to which General Practitioners can refer their patients for specialist investigation.

(e) Hospital Services

Fever. Cases of Infectious Disease requiring hospital treatment are admitted to Isolation Hospitals at Cambridge, Peterborough or Ely.

General Hospital Services were provided by the County Hospital, Huntingdon and Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

Maternity Cases were admitted to Primrose Lane Maternity Hospital, Huntingdon and Mill Road Maternity Hospital, Cambridge.

ANNUAL REPORT
of the
PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

To:—

The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

This, the 27th Annual Report I have prepared for the Council, reflects the scope of the work undertaken by the Department during 1964.

Some of the fundamental problems of environmental hygiene have gradually diminished over the years as services such as water, refuse collection and main drainage schemes have been introduced. These services in turn, introduce new administrative problems, due to the changing pattern of the work. The emphasis in 1964 was mainly on the Houghton, Wyton and The Hemingfords' Main Drainage scheme and the necessity for ensuring that the existing labour force was increased to deal with the maintenance of some twelve miles of foul sewers, nine pumping stations and the disposal works.

Much thought was given to the co-ordination of the maintenance schedules, the economic use of transport, communications, and other relevant factors. It is hoped that the foundation of a sound and compact organisation has been laid which can be expanded to include similar schemes in other villages as they come into operation.

The Department is fortunate in having a small labour force which is willing, in an emergency, to switch from Housing to Public Health, from Estate Maintenance to Refuse Collection, and so on.

It is this mobility, this absence of restriction, which applies to the staff as well, on which the department depends to carry out, efficiently and economically, the services entrusted to it by the Council.

I wish, therefore, to record my appreciation of the loyal co-operation I have received from all the Council's employees engaged in the Public Health and Housing Department during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

G. H. PHIPPS,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES

1. (1) WATER

The Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board and the Cambridge Water Company are responsible for the supply and distribution of water in the district.

The Council has no direct representation on the Board of the Cambridge Water Company but appoints one Member to the Joint Consultation Committee. Similarly it has one representative on the Nene and Ouse Joint Water Board.

The Nene and Ouse Water Board supplies water to Hemingford Abbots, Hemingford Grey, Houghton and Wyton; the remainder of the district is supplied by the Cambridge Water Company.

During the year no restrictions on the use of water for domestic purposes were imposed by either the Board or the Company, and except in one or two areas, pressures have been adequate.

During the year the Cambridge Water Company obtained the necessary permission to develop a new source of supply at Hemingford Grey. This new well will help to supplement the supply to Saint Ives Borough and parts of the Rural District. By agreement with the Company, the Nene and Ouse Board will also receive a bulk supply from this source.

There is a good network of mains throughout the district extending to the fen areas to the North and East, and further extensions of the mains are completed to isolated farms and cottages from time to time.

The water supplied is extremely hard: up to 500 parts per million from the Joint Board, but the Cambridge Water Company has reduced this to approximately 300 parts per million by mixing softened water from Cambridge (130 parts per million) with the water from the Earth source (500 parts per million).

No fluoride is introduced into the supplies although the Council has advocated fluoridation.

The Cambridge Water Company is unable to separate the water supplied to Huntingdonshire and Cambridgeshire and the latter Authority is opposed to this principle.

The quality of all the supplies is satisfactory. Both the Joint Board and the Company take annual chemical samples at source and bacteriological samples from their distribution areas once a month.

Four samples of water were taken from premises served by the Cambridge Water Company. These were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory Service for bacteriological examination. The results indicated that the supply was satisfactory.

Two samples of water were taken from private supplies

during the year; both proved to be unsatisfactory and the occupiers were advised to boil all water used for drinking or domestic purposes. Subsequently further sampling indicated that one of these supplies was satisfactory.

One Firm operating a large Milk Distribution and Processing Plant has its own private source in the form of a shallow well. The water is chlorinated, softened to zero degrees and then re-chlorinated before use. Bacteriological examination of this water is carried out daily by the Firm.

1. (2) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

The Somersham Main Drainage Scheme, completed in 1957, continues to operate satisfactorily.

Periodic sampling of the effluent being discharged into the Cranbrook indicates that it is up to the standard required by the Great Ouse River Board (i.e. Royal Commission Standard).

The Houghton, Wyton and the Hemingfords' Scheme, completed in October, 1963, gradually came into operation as existing premises were connected and by the end of the year the dry weather flow through the works was approximately 50,000 gallons per day.

The works are designed to deal with a maximum flow of 350,000 gallons per day.

Routine sampling of the effluent after the plant had been in operation for six months indicated that the sedimentation tanks, percolating filters and humus tanks were working satisfactorily and that the effluent was up to Royal Commission Standard.

The main drainage scheme for Holywell-cum-Needingworth was approved by the Ministry during the year and the work commenced in November.

The Scheme comprises 5 miles of asbestos cement sewers and three pumping stations, one of which is situated at the Disposal Works.

The disposal works comprises Sedimentation tanks, Sludge Digestion Tanks, Humus Tanks, Sludge Drying Beds and Auxilliary works and is designed for maximum flow of 30,000 gallons per day.

As in the case of the Hemingfords' Scheme, the Council decided to implement the provisions of the Public Health Act, 1961, and the necessary resolutions were published to enable it to recover payments from the owners of those premises constructed after the completion of the new sewers and then connected to them.

Small Disposal Plants treat effluent from Housing Estates at Bury, Colne, Earith, Fenstanton, Hilton and Warboys.

No serious trouble was experienced in any of these works and in spite of the difficulties that can occur in the day-to-

day operation of such relatively small installations, the effluent being maintained at a satisfactory level of purification.

The disposal works at Oldhurst (purchased from the Air Ministry in 1953) are partially operated to deal with effluent from houses and a large caravan site at Oldhurst.

These works will ultimately be used to treat sewage from Warboys, Broughton and Oldhurst.

All maintenance work on the foul sewers, the three major and six minor sewage disposal works and twenty pumping stations is carried out by a direct labour staff consisting of a General Foreman, two charge hands and five Labourers, and up to the present all sewer connections, normal maintenance of plant and equipment have been dealt with promptly and efficiently by the staff.

It would however be necessary to obtain further assistance in the event of a major breakdown in plant and machinery.

Progress on other Main Drainage Schemes continued and can be summarised as follows:—

BURY

The necessity to provide a scheme to serve this village as soon as possible because of increasing residential development was carefully considered by the Council. It decided to proceed independantly of Ramsey Urban District Council and provide its own disposal works in Bury as it seemed unlikely that the Urban District Council would be in a position to accept the sewerage from Bury for approximately three years.

WARBOYS, BROUGHTON and OLDHURST

The Engineers were formally instructed by the Council to include the villages of Broughton and Oldhurst in the Warboys Scheme.

The general survey work has now been completed and the Engineers are preparing the final details for submission to the Ministry.

FENSTANTON and HILTON

This scheme is at present in course of preparation for submission to the Ministry.

There is a large milk processing plant at Fenstanton and the Engineers have completed their investigations into both the peak flow total discharge and strength of the effluent from this Factory.

BLUNTISHAM, COLNE and EARITH

The Engineers have been formally instructed to prepare a scheme for this group of villages.

PIDLEY and WOODHURST

Preliminary work on the separate schemes for these two villages has not yet been commenced.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS

The River Ouse which flows through the district is controlled by the Great Ouse River Board.

No serious flooding occurred during the year, but the Hemingfords' will remain vulnerable to a flood reaching the 1947 level unless a similar flood protection scheme to that provided at Houghton and Wyton is constructed.

It is understood that the River Board is still considering the implementation of such a scheme.

The amenities of the River are much enjoyed by an increasing number of people every year; coachloads of anglers mainly from the Midlands, line the banks at week-ends, while an enjoyable and restful holiday cruising on the river is appreciated by many more.

The County Planning Authority have foreseen the increasing demand for recreational facilities on the pleasant reaches in Saint Ives Rural District and indeed in other districts, and it has issued a report on such facilities. The object of the report is to endeavour to make the best use of the river for recreational purposes without destroying its fundamental attraction. It seeks therefore to control the development of Camping Sites, Chalets, Boating facilities and picnic areas.

It is improbable that any official bathing stations could be established in the near future owing to the degree of pollution, but many people do bathe, and unfortunately fatalities due to drowning occur from time to time.

3. (1) CLOSET CONVERSIONS

As a result of the completion of the Hemingford Scheme 35 applications were received by the Council for the conversion of pail to water lavatories. Grants totalling £2,432, equal to 50% of the approved cost of the works, were given by the Council during the year, an average of £35 for each conversion.

The remainder of the conversions were confined to houses improved by means of Discretionary or Standard Grants.

There are still approximately 52 pail closets remaining in the district.

3. (2) PUBLIC CLEANSING

(a) Night-Soil Collection

A weekly collection of night-soil is carried out throughout the district by means of two 750 gallon Yorkshire Karrier Tankers which are fitted with night-soil attachments.

Approximately 610 pails were emptied each week.

The areas of land available for disposal are limited and even these areas are inaccessible during the winter months. The answer of course is main drainage.

Meanwhile stop gap methods such as the provision of straw compounds at Oldhurst Sewage Works continue to be employed. The effluent is drained to the sludge drying bed sump and pumped back very slowly through the works. Similar straw compounds in isolated positions have been provided by local Farmers, but as a rule these are inaccessible to the heavy tankers for many months of the year.

Following the termination of the contract with Saint Ives Borough Council for the collection of night-soil in the Borough, arrangements have been made with the owners of property to continue the collections on a commercial basis.

The contract for the collection and disposal of night-soil from Huntingdon Borough Council continued during the year.

(b) Cesspool Emptying

The same vehicles are used for cesspool emptying and gully cleansing as are used for the night-soil service.

The number of cesspools and septic tanks emptied during the year was 1,201.

There has been no diminution of this service.

The development proceeding in those villages without main drainage and the consequent increase in the number of properties with septic tank drainage has offset the effect of the Hemingford drainage scheme.

Furthermore a number of householders on the lines of sewers have not yet availed themselves of the opportunity of scrapping their existing septic tanks and connecting their drains to the sewers.

With this service too, the difficulty lies not in the collection but in the disposal of vast volumes of sewage and sludge that no one wants and few can be persuaded to take.

The charges for the service have remained unaltered from the time they were first fixed in 1950, namely 25/- for each 700 gallon load and a sliding scale reducing the charge for additional loads.

The service is made available to neighbouring Local Authorities and Government Departments for desludging sewage tanks and gully emptying.

In addition, the service is made available to private individuals in adjacent districts at competitive commercial prices.

(c) Refuse Collection and Disposal

The weekly kerbside collection of house refuse throughout the district continued during the year and a satisfactory service was maintained.

Three vehicles are used for the collection, two diesel driven 'dual-tips' of 15 cubic yards capacity and one 22 cubic yard compression type vehicle fitted with hydraulic ramps.

Each vehicle is normally manned by two driver loaders, an additional loader being available when the daily schedule necessitates some assistance.

Refuse collection is often considered a "Cinderella Type" service, yet it cannot be disputed that nothing can compare with the speed at which householders fly to pen, telephone or press to express their indignation when their dustbin has not been emptied. Invariably such complaints include some reference to the 'excessive rates' they have to pay, and dire threats that they will 'take the matter further.'

It is equally true that a complete breakdown in this service would raise very serious public health problems. However, no difficulties have been experienced in obtaining and retaining suitable and efficient staff for this service which, to the very great credit of the Council's employees, has been maintained at an excellent level throughout the year.

It is after the collection that the real problem arises, but naturally the householders are not always so interested in this facet of the service. Practically every square yard of land in the Rural District is highly cultivated and tipping areas are confined to worked-out wet gravel pits, all of which are far from ideal sites. Negotiations with a local company for tipping facilities were however completed in respect of a pit at Meadow Lane, Saint Ives, but it is anticipated that this area will be filled in 1965. Small quantities of refuse were also tipped at Somersham and Hemingford Grey. The refuse is bulldozed and covered with earth when this is available.

By arrangement with Saint Ives Borough Council a weekly kerbside collection of house refuse is carried out at Saint Ives. Trade Refuse is also collected from non-domestic premises in the Borough and the Rural District. Tipping facilities are available, for which a small charge is made.

LITTER RECEPTACLES

A number of Parish Councils have provided litter bins at suitable points. Suggestions as to the best type of receptacle to be provided are made to the Parish Councils. The receptacles are emptied on the normal refuse collection days in each parish, but in the hot weather they can give rise to nuisance when not emptied more frequently and it is difficult for the parishes to find anybody to undertake this work.

3. (3) Sanitary Inspections of the Area

(a) Housing Inspections :

Under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	107
Re-Inspections	...	...	26
Number of Preliminary Notices served	...	...	28
Number of Preliminary Notices complied with	...	...	25
Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	—
Number of Statutory Notices complied with	...	...	—

(b) Inspections under the Factories Act, 1937-1961:—

Premises	Number on Register	Number of Inspections	Number of written Notices	Number of Occupiers Prosecuted
1. Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6	7	4	Nil	Nil
2. Section 7	45	30	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—
Total	52	34	Nil	Nil
	—	—	—	—

The following defects were found as a result of the inspections:—

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were:—				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M.	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	4	4	0	0	0
Overcrowding	0	0	0	0	0
Unreasonable temperature	0	0	0	0	0
Inadequate ventilation	1	1	0	0	0
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	0	0	0
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient	1	1	0	0	0
(b) Unsuitable or defective	7	7	0	0	0
(c) Not separate for sexes	1	1	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—
Total	15	15	0	0	0
	—	—	—	—	—

No proceedings were taken against any of the occupiers of Factories in the district and the premises were maintained in a satisfactory condition.

(c) Inspections under Regulations, etc.

Moveable Dwellings	...	...	...	...	...	88
Dumps, Tips	...	...	...	...	...	149
Public Cleansing	...	...	...	...	...	108
Offensive Trades	...	...	...	...	...	2
Butchers' Premises	...	...	...	...	...	120
Shops and Offices	...	...	...	...	...	188
Pumps, Wells	...	...	...	...	...	18
Drains	...	...	...	...	...	191
Council Houses	...	...	...	...	...	420
Housing Sites	...	...	...	...	...	263
General Public Health	...	...	...	...	...	195
Swimming Pools	...	...	...	...	...	8
Meat from outside District	...	...	...	...	...	0
Petroleum Stores	...	...	...	...	...	42
After Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	0
Ice Cream	...	...	...	...	...	18
Disinfestations	...	...	...	...	...	12
Food Regulations	...	...	...	...	...	212
Sewage Works	...	...	...	...	...	286
Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	137
Drainage Schemes	...	...	...	...	...	437
Conversion Grants	...	...	...	...	...	135
Miscellaneous	...	...	...	...	...	94
					TOTAL	3,123

As a result of the above inspections, 312 informal notices were served on the owners and occupiers of the premises concerned requesting them to comply with certain provisions of the relevant legislation and in all but a few isolated cases little difficulty was experienced in effecting compliance.

3. (4) CARAVAN SITES

Since the commencement of the Caravan Sites and Control of Development Act, 1960, the Council has approved standard conditions applicable to all licensed caravan sites.

These standards broadly follow the Ministry's recommendations and, as such, the licensing conditions vary according to the number of caravans on each site.

Routine inspections made during the year of the existing licensed sites have shown that on the whole owners are maintaining them in a satisfactory condition. The few minor contraventions found were always quickly remedied when brought to the owners attention.

Six new applications for licences were granted by the Council and as the County Council did not make any discontinuance orders, the total number of licensed sites in the district now stands at 38. Of these only 3 sites have more than 20 caravans whilst 26 sites contain only one.

Several itinerant van dwellers station their vans in the district, the majority of whom are employed as casual workers in agriculture and horticulture.

3. (5) SWIMMING BATHS

The Joint Committee appointed by Saint Ives Borough and the Rural District Council decided to recommend that an open pool be provided on the site at Saint Ives at an estimated cost of £82,000 and this recommendation was accepted by both Councils.

Two County Primary Schools in the district have now been provided with plastic pools. Circulating Pumps are used to assist in the effective chlorination of the water.

Regular sampling is carried out by the staff at the schools to ensure that an adequate level of free chlorine is maintained.

Check samples, all of which were satisfactory, were taken by the Department during the year.

3. (6) RODENT CONTROL

The Council does not employ any Rodent Operators. However the Foreman of the Public Cleansing Staff has been trained in Rodent Control and deals with minor infestations.

Block disinfestations are carried out where necessary, the service of an Operator being made available by an adjoining Local Authority; one such operation was carried out in the centre of Earith during the year.

The Council issue suitable pre-packed cartons containing Warfarin to householders on request free of charge, and many have taken advantage of this service.

Regular disinestation of the Council's refuse tips was also carried out; warfarin and phosphides being found the most effective baits.

3. (7) OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES

Since the turn of the century, Acts of Parliament concerned with the health, safety, and welfare of manual workers, have regularly entered the Statute Book, and the fact that millions of non-manual workers (apart from shop assistants) had no similar protection seemed to escape the attention of the country's legislators. However, some three to four years ago a Private Members' Bill aimed at bettering the conditions of office workers was introduced to the House. The Act became law but no action was taken towards its implementation as it was generally felt that the whole field of legislation affecting non-manual workers merited ministerial investigation. The result was the creation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963, with its greater coverage of the whole problem.

The Act is in two major parts which deal respectively with (a) Health, Safety and Welfare of Employees, and (b) Fire Precautions, the responsibility for enforcement resting jointly in the hands of H.M. Factories Inspectorate, Public Health Officers and Officers of the Local Fire Authorities, all of whom have to make quarterly and annual statistical returns to the Minister of Labour.

During the period commencing 1st May, 1964, and ending 1st August, 1964, some 65 premises were registered with the Council. However, the resultant inspections which took place revealed that 20 of the premises should have been registered with Her Majesty's Inspector of Factories and the occupiers of such premises were advised accordingly.

The reason for such a small number of registrations in this district is that many shops are family concerns and hence are automatically exempted.

General statistics compiled from the reports on registered premises are as follows:—

Classification of Premises		
Classification	Number of Premises registered	Number of Employees
Offices	13	53
Shops (Retail)	28	61
Wholesale departments,		
Warehouses	0	1
Catering Establishments	4	20
Canteens	0	4
Fuel Storage Depots	0	0
<hr/> Totals		139
<hr/> Total Males		73
<hr/> Total Females		66

The number of informal notices served on all classes of premises totalled 44 and a breakdown of these is shown below against the sections of the Act that were contravened:—

Contraventions

Section	Offices	Shops	Catering Establishments
4. Cleanliness	1	5	0
6. Temperature	5	17	2
7. Ventilation	0	0	1
9. Sanitary Conveniences	4	14	3
10. Washing Facilities	8	33	2
11. Drinking Water	2	11	2
12. Accommodation for clothing	0	2	1
13. Sitting Facilities	0	2	0
16. Floors, Stairs, etc.	1	20	0
17. Guarding of Machinery	0	6	1
24. First-aid Boxes	4	18	3
50. Abstract of Act	7	26	4
TOTALS	32	154	19

Re-inspections of these premises has shown that the occupiers are making satisfactory progress on the works entailed to remedy the contraventions. Only two owners have made applications for temporary exemption from the requirements of the Act relating to sanitary conveniences, both applications being granted.

Steps will be taken to ensure that these premises are brought up to and maintained in a satisfactory condition.

HOUSING

(a) Slum Clearance

The following table shows the progress in the Council's Slum Clearance programme up to the end of the year:—

Number of houses represented as Unfit:—

(a) Clearance Areas	...	...	...	30
(b) Individual Unfit houses	...	...	...	234
Number dealt with by informal action	...	...	...	5
			Total	269

Number of houses included in Clearance Order 30

Number of Demolition Orders made ... 99

Number of Closing Orders made ... 2

Number of houses demolished as result of informal action ... 10

Number of Undertakings accepted ... 126

Number of houses closed as a result of informal action ... 1

Number of houses made fit as a result of informal action ... 1

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Number of Houses Demolished:—

(a) In Clearance Areas	30
(b) By Demolition Orders	78
(c) By Informal Action	...	...	10
(d) As a result of Undertakings	...	...	22
Number of Undertakings cancelled	...	...	42
Number of Demolition Orders cancelled	...	...	11

A further 7 houses were dealt with under the Slum Clearance Provisions of the Housing Acts in 1964, and there are very few houses left in the district which can be represented as being unfit and incapable of being made fit at reasonable cost.

With the increase in the price of new houses and the difficulty of obtaining Planning Permission for single plots, many cottages are being renovated and modernised that might otherwise have been considered obsolescent and fit only for demolition.

Geographically the district is ideal for commuting to adjacent towns and this factor has done much to encourage the improvement of such houses.

(b) General

Only 34 dwellings were completed by the Council in 1964; of these 21 consisted of a block of flats erected in Somersham for elderly tenants. Consequently the number of applicants on the Council's waiting list increased by approximately 33%. On the other hand 69 applicants were allocated council houses and 8 existing tenants were transferred to other council dwellings more suited to the size of the families concerned.

No pressure is brought to bear on tenants to move to alternative accommodation but often a single vacancy makes it possible to transfer 2 or 3 families.

The resident population is steadily increasing and the Council has pursued its policy of purchasing land for development in several villages. A proportion of the land purchased being retained for the erection of council houses and flats, the remainder being sold to private developers.

The necessity of providing adequate yet economic schemes for the satisfactory disposal of sewage has restricted the commencement of Council development in some villages and this problem will remain until all the Council's major sewage schemes are completed.

Development in two villages (The Hemingfords') is controlled by a definite village map and the Council has made representations to the County Council for its revision. Discussions on possible alterations and the inclusion of further land in the map to be zoned for residential development were proceeding with the County Council and the two Parish Councils at the end of the year.

The need to build houses where people want to live and the conflicting dogmas of Town and Country planning have not yet been resolved; the need to preserve the old village life and the street scene as it at present exists is incompatible with the growing demand for more and more houses. It is inconceivable that outdated houses cannot be replaced, by means of modern techniques, with dwellings that will enhance the village scene? Must the old thatched cottage, weary, worn, and wilting with age, halt progress for all time?

The impact of Industrialised Building into Rural Districts especially if the outer skins are composed of bright plastic finishes may yet be the way to bring a gleam of light to this problem.

The following table shows the progress made in the erection of both council and privately owned houses since 1946:-

		Council houses completed	Private houses completed
1946	...	18	10
1947	...	47	29
1948	...	50	19
1949	...	47	15
1950	...	47	21
1951	...	25	8
1952	...	56	2
1953	...	50	23
1954	...	74	23
1955	...	63	17
1956	...	15	36
1957	...	25	43
1958	...	21	41
1959	...	29	76
1960	...	19	62
1961	...	26	43
1962	...	20	75
1963	...	8	108
1964	...	34	107
		674	758

The total number of council houses and bungalows at the end of the year was 1,092. All are subject to the Council's Differential Rent Scheme and are maintained by a Direct Labour Force consisting of a Foreman and 8 men.

HOUSING ADVANCES FOR HOUSE PURCHASE

THERE has been a considerable impetus in the number of advances during 1964; 39 loans having been made amounting to £85,070.

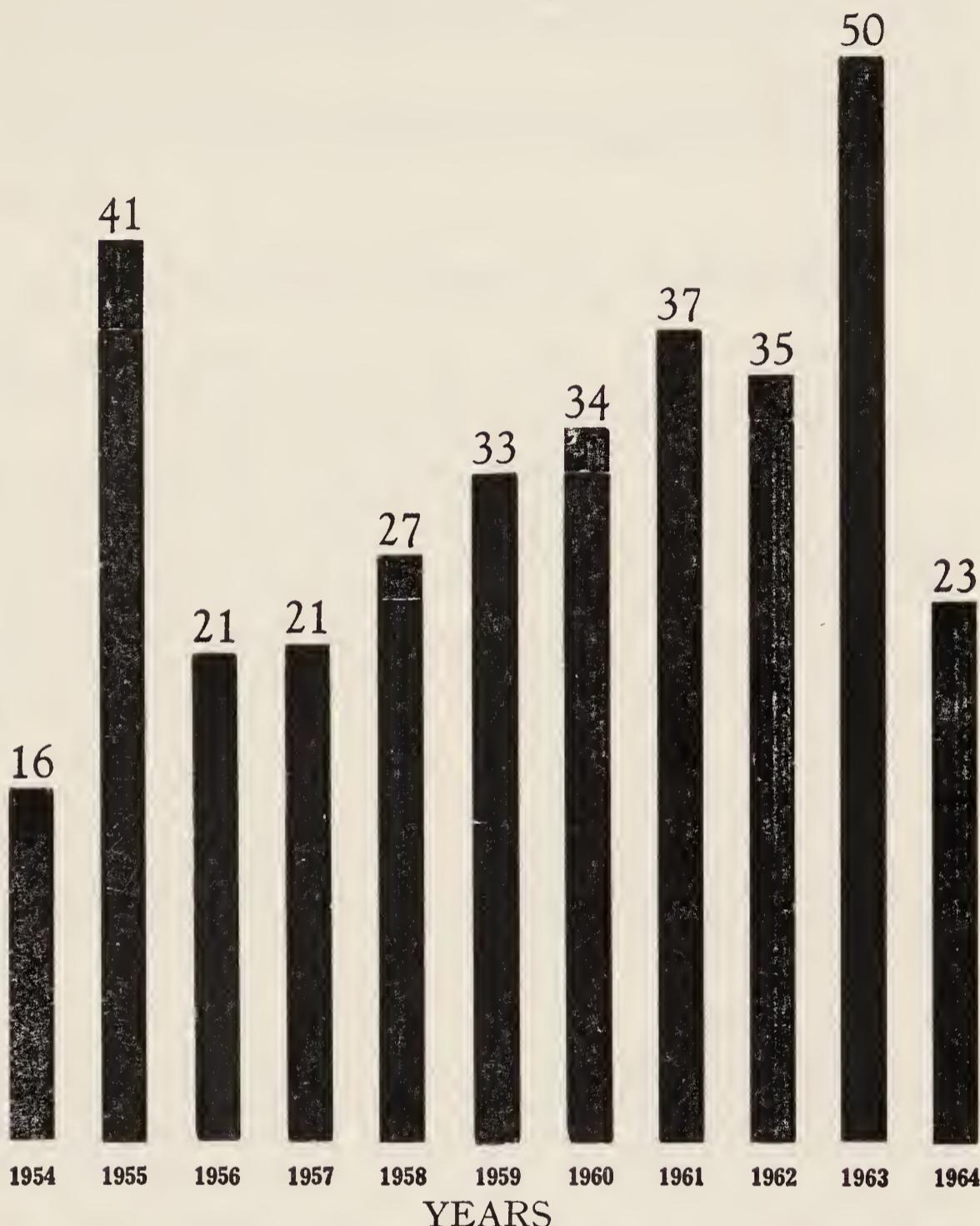
Since the Council introduced its House Purchase Scheme in 1952 a total of 109 advances amounting to approximately £211,000 have been granted.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

One underlying feature of the provision of main drainage in the District is that it brings about an encouraging increase in the rate at which owners take advantage of Council Grants for house improvement. This statement can be substantiated by the pattern of house improvements in those parts of the district which are already sewered. For example, in the Hemingfords, Houghton and Wyton and London Road, Fenstanton 69% and 64% respectively of the houses improved

IMPROVEMENT GRANT STATISTICS, 1954 to 1964

NUMBER OF GRANTS



by Grants in these parishes have been done since the commencement of sewerage works.

Concerning the latter percentage it is also important to bear in mind the fact that only a small number of premises in Fenstanton, namely, London Road, have main drainage available to them.

The number of applications for Improvement Grants fell during the year to 23, all of which were granted.

During the year Standard Grants amounting to £2,192 were made in respect of 15 houses, an average of £146 per house; and Discretionary Grants amounting to £2,249 in respect of 8 houses, an average of £281 per house.

Since the implementation of the Improvement Grant Scheme by the Council, Grants to the total value of £68,927 have been made to owners in respect of 338 houses, an average of £203 per house, the progress being shown in the graph on page .

Improvements to council houses continued during the year; the number completed to the end of the year being 120.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

It was possible to devote a little more time to the tasks of inspection and supervision of the premises in the district where food and drink are prepared and sold.

All the licensed premises in the area were inspected as a result of which a number of improvements, designed to ensure that the Food Hygiene Regulations were complied with, were completed by the owners during the year.

It is impossible to ensure that all the equipment provided is used as it should be, but no opportunity is lost to stress its importance to all persons engaged in handling food for sale for human consumption.

As elsewhere the Typhoid Epidemic at Aberdeen resulted in a spot check on all stores of tinned meat in the district, whether in warehouses, shops or canteen. All the occupiers of such premises co-operated willingly. None of the suspected food was found.

(a) Milk Supply

A large proportion of the milk retailed in the district is purveyed by two firms, both of whom operate high temperature short-time pasteurisation plants. Occasionally complaints regarding dirty bottles are received from members of the public, but every possible precaution is taken at the bottling plants to minimise such occurrences.

The bottle, however, is still considered to be the best receptacle for milk, yet householders do not always treat it as a food container.

At present economic considerations alone preclude the introduction of a non-returnable container in the form of a special waste-paper carton. Recently however continental dairies have introduced sealed plastic bags as containers which are manufactured and sealed at the Dairies. They have many advantages over the paper carton, not the least of which is that when emptied they add practically nothing to the volume of house refuse placed in the dustbins.

Although the Council still have adequate powers to inspect all premises, including dairies, under the General Public Health legislation all the specific regulations formerly administered by the Council have now been transferred to other authorities.

As a general rule therefore, no routine visits are made to dairies unless exceptional circumstances warrant an inspection.

This procedure has been adopted to avoid duplication of visits from officers of different local authorities.

(b) Ice Cream

There are no licensed manufacturers in the district: all the ice cream sold consists of pre-packed brands manufactured and distributed by well known Firms.

Six samples of Ice Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year. The results indicated that all were satisfactory.

Two further premises were registered for the retail sale of Ice Cream.

(c) Meat and other Foods

There are no public or private slaughterhouses in the area.

All the meat sold is imported from adjoining areas, butchers buying direct from wholesalers or from local fatstock markets and arranging for animals to be slaughtered in premises situated outside the district.

By arrangement with the Council and two neighbouring Authorities the Department assists in the inspection of meat at Abattoirs in those districts during holiday periods and in any emergency.

Small quantities of tinned meat and fish were condemned together with 45 bushels of Imported Tasmanian Pears, three hindquarters of Pork (weight 74 lbs.) and various other foods.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS

The Food premises in the district have been classified as follows:—

Bakers	6
Butchers	9
Café's and Canteens	9
Confectioners	1
Fish Shops	5
General Stores	54
Greengrocers	2
Licensed Premises	34

The shops are small and are mostly owner-occupied, very few shop assistants being employed.

No proceedings were instituted during the year for offences against the Regulations, but several requests were made to owners to provide the facilities required under the Regulations.

Consultations also proceeded with Breweries regarding the modernisation of some of the licensed premises which are still sub-standard.

ADULTERATION

Huntingdon County Council is the primary Authority responsible for the administration of those provisions of the Food & Drugs Act relating to adulteration.

No special circumstances arose where it was considered any action could, with advantage, be taken by the Department.

